

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 2b
Columbia River Compact Hearing
April 20 2011

<i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i> Select Area Commercial

- Commercial fisheries in the Select Areas harvested approximately 221 spring Chinook during the winter seasons which ended March 16 in Youngs Bay and April 4 in Blind Slough and Deep River.
- Spring seasons opened in the Youngs Bay, Deep River, and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough sites this week (April 17-19). Catches for the first periods were decent with about 1,150 spring Chinook landed. Combined winter and spring season harvest to date is approximately 1,370 spring Chinook.
- The catches in the spring opening periods included approximately 100 upriver stock spring Chinook. Based on the pre-update buffered run size, Select Area commercial fisheries are allocated 208 upriver spring Chinook.
- A highly conservative Select Area commercial season structure was adopted at the February 8, 2011 Compact Hearing due to the low allowable upriver spring Chinook impact limit for these fisheries.
- The apparent delayed timing of the upriver spring Chinook run, coupled with a high, turbid river may have lead to a higher than expected number of upriver spring Chinook to be present in the Select Areas in mid-April.
- Based on past performance of the fisheries, the allowable upriver spring Chinook cap of 208 fish is projected to be exceeded without modification of the currently adopted seasons.

Staff Recommendation – Select Area Commercial Fisheries
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Joint Staff is recommending that the Select Area commercial fishing periods currently scheduled to occur between April 21 and April 26, 2011 be rescinded. This includes Tongue Point/South Channel, Deep River, and concurrent waters in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough.• Oregon Staff is recommending that the Select Area commercial fishing periods currently scheduled to occur between April 21 and April 26, 2011 in Oregon waters of Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Youngs Bay be rescinded.

- ✓ This recommendation would result in the closure of two fishing periods each in Youngs Bay and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and one each in Deep River and Tongue Point/South Channel.

- ✓ Deep River is scheduled to be open tonight from 7pm to 7am. Harvest is expected to be low and catch of upriver spring Chinook is expected to be minimal (less than 5).
- ✓ It is expected that abundance of upriver spring Chinook will decline by the end of next week and into early May, allowing the fisheries to resume as originally adopted.

Future Hearings

- No additional Compact/Joint State hearings are currently scheduled.
- The Joint Staff will continue to monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as needed.